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USK URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 1968

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND THE

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BRIDGE STREET,
USK, MON.
NP5 1XB.

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

DR. S.M. JAMES, B.Sc., M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

SURVEYOR & PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

G.V.R. LEE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to present to you the annual report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Usk Urban District.

More than three generations ago far-seeing and forward thinking pioneers were stressing the extent to which the health of each individual is governed by the general health of the community. As a result, we have had a gradual evolution of vast public health services which still function with varying degrees of efficiency throughout this country. Among the more important of these services that contribute to healthy living are the group we regard as the environmental services. These include the provision of decent housing, water supplies, adequate sewage and refuse disposal; proper supervision of food and many amenities which help to make life pleasanter as well healthier. Some of them have become so conveniently a part of our daily lives that we tend to forget their health value. If the water is cut off or the refuse vehicle breaks down and fails to call, our first thought is of the inconvenience and not of the danger to health. Yet, with the present degree of urbanisation illness would soon prevail in their absence.

Another outstanding feature of this century has been the steady evolution of personal health services with their roots in the Poor Law and the ceaseless activities of voluntary organisations. Since the 1946 National Health Service Act became operative in 1948 these services have been provided by the Local Health Authorities and include:-

- Health Visiting.
- Infant Welfare and care of mothers.
- Cytology.
- Day Nurseries.
- Home Nursing.
- Home Helps.
- Vaccination and Immunisation.
- Care and after-care services.
- Mental Welfare.
- Ambulance Services.
- Health Centres.

These services, together with medicine in general, have progressed so far that many of the one-time fatal infectious diseases are now under control. Their success has resulted in the emergence of a new pattern of disease - the Cardio-vascular group; all forms of Carcinoma; Diabetes mellitus; Bronchitis etc. These diseases are characterised by slow progression and are predominantly degenerative. If not always preventable, their onset can often be delayed but we need to know more about their natural history.

As already mentioned, the present system of individual and community medical care has evolved slowly over the past century culminating in the National Health Service Act 1946. This act was designed to provide a comprehensive medical service for everyone in this country, and has been operating for 20 years. It is now generally felt that some of these services are more suited to the problems of the past rather than the present. Others can be improved although, in the main, the quality of personal service has been satisfactory. It appears that the scene is set for a change in the general administration and organisational structure of our three-tiered system of National Health Service. We have recently been showered with a series of commissions and reports. One of these, the Green Paper was produced in 1968 and after numerous meetings and discussions up and down the country, nationally and locally, one is tempted to say "How green was the paper in my valley". The single tier system portrayed in this paper has since been universally thrown into the waste-paper basket and a two-tier system suggested in its place. On the other hand, the Seebohm Report, in particular, seems unfortunately to advocate the undesirable separation of social work from health services with far too little stress on health and medical problems. The Report of the Royal Commission on Local Government is still to come.

Whatever the outcome, the patient must be the key figure and one sincerely hopes that there will be continued steady evolution and not an explosive revolution.

VITAL STATISTICS - 1968

Area	655 acres
Estimated Population	2180
Number of inhabited houses	677
(according to Rate Book on 31.12.68)	
Rateable Value	£51,525
1d Rate	£197

1968

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	7	12	19
Illegitimate	<u>4</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	11	12	23

<u>LIVE BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
per 1000 population	10.6	17.1	16.9
Comparability Factor	=	0.99	
Adjusted live birth rate	=	10.6 x 0.99 = 10.5	
" " " " County	=	17.44	

Ratio of local adjusted Birth Rate to National Rate = 0.62

<u>STILL-BIRTHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

<u>STILL-BIRTH RATE</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
per 1000 live & still-births	-	17.92	14.0

<u>DEATHS</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
All Causes	13	9	22

Death rate per 1000 population	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
	10.1	12.22	11.9
Comparability Factor	=	1.34	
Adjusted death rate	=	10.1 x 1.34 = 13.5	
" " " " County	=	13.68	

Ratio of local adjusted death rate to National Rate = 1.14

<u>DEATHS FROM CANCER</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
	2	2	4
<u>DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER</u>	-	-	-

DEATHS DUE TO PREGNANCY, CHILD-BIRTH, ABORTION

= 0

Maternal Mortality Rate USK COUNTY
 (Rate per 1000 live & still-births) - 0.65

INFANT MORTALITY

<u>Infant Mortality Rate</u>	<u>USK</u>	<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>ENGLAND & WALES</u>
(Rate per 1000 total live births)	-	18.74	18.0
<u>Neonatal Mortality Rate - first 4 weeks</u> (Rate per 1000 total live births)	-	13.76	12.3
<u>Early Neonatal Mortality Rate - under 1 wk-</u>		11.27	10.5
<u>Perinatal Mortality</u> (Still-births & infant deaths under 1 wk per 1000 total live & still-births)	-	28.99	25.0

Perinatal Mortality in Usk Urban District
1962 - 1968

Year	Number of First Week Deaths	Number of Still-births	Perinatal Mortality Rate
1968	-	-	-
1967	1	1	49.0
1966	-	2	40.8
1965	-	-	-
1964	-	-	-
1963	-	-	-
1962	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality 1962 - 1968Usk Urban District, Pontypool Rural District & Monmouthshire County

Year	Usk Urban District	Pontypool Rural District	Mon. County
1968	-	31.0	25.0
1967	49.0	35.5	29.09
1966	40.8	28.27	33.87
1965	-	22.1	35.98
1964	-	26.5	37.25
1963	-	30.12	35.82
1962	-	17.7	38.85

Causes of Death at different periods of life during 1968

Usk Urban District

Cause of Death	Sex	Total all ages	Under 4 Weeks	4 Wks & under 1 year	Age in years									
					1-	5-	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75+	
Malignant Neoplasm - Breast	M	-												
	F	1								1				
Other Malignant Neoplasms etc.	M	2										2		
	F	1							1					
Hypertensive Disease	M	1										1		
	F	-												
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	5										4	1	
	F	4										2	2	
Other forms of Heart Disease	M	1										1		
	F	1											1	
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	1										1		
	F	1										1		
Bronchitis and Emphysena	M	2									1		1	
	F	1										1		
Suicide and Self-inflicted Injuries	M	1										1		
	F	-												
Total All Causes	M	13									1	10	2	
	F	9								1	1	4	3	

TUBERCULOSIS

<u>NOTIFIED</u>	Pulmonary	<u>M.</u> O.	<u>F.</u> O.	Non Pulmonary	<u>M.</u> O.	<u>F.</u> O.	
<u>DEATHS</u>	"	<u>M.</u> O.	<u>F.</u> O.	"	"	<u>M.</u> O.	<u>F.</u> O.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)

Classified according to age and sex

Disease	Sex	Age					Total
		0-4	5-9	10-14	15-24	25 +	
Diphtheria	M						
	F						
Scarlet Fever	M						
	F						
Meningococcal Infection	M						
	F						
Measles	M	13	15	1			29
	F	14	20	2	1		37
Whooping Cough	M	4	4				8
	F		4				4
Poliomyelitis	M						
	F						
Dysentery	M						
	F						
Food Poisoning	M						
	F						
Erysipelis	M						
	F						

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX

Numbers Vaccinated

Age Group	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968
Under 1yr	20	22	18	15	13	3	-	-	-	1	-
1-4 yrs	7	2	5	4	42	5	11	22	19	11	11
5-14 yrs	3	1	2	5	212	2	-	-	1	1	3
15 yrs +	10	7	4	6	639	2	-	-	-	-	1
TOTAL	40	32	29	30	906	12	11	22	20	13	15

In addition, there were 13 revaccinations.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA AND WHOOPING COUGH

Numbers Immunised

Age Group	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	1968	
Under 5yrs	17	13	9	39	30	36	60	58	31	37	30	Diptheria
	20	14	10	30	29	48	59	58	31	35	22	Whoop.
				29	30	40	55	62	1	37	30	Tetanus.
5-14 yrs	24	1	1	5	-	2	10	5	1	2	2	Diptheria
			1	2	-	2	10	13	1	1	-	Whoop.
				2	2	3	15	11	18	6	6	Tetanus
TOTAL	41	14	10	44	30	38	70	63	32	39	32	Diptheria
	20	14	11	32	29	50	69	71	32	36	22	Whoop.
				31	32	43	70	73	19	43	36	Tetanus

In addition, there were 39 "Booster" injections of Diptheria Prophylactis given, 9 of Whooping Vaccine and 43 of Tetanus.

Yours faithfully,

S.M. JAMES, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my report of the work carried out in the district during the year 1968.

INSPECTIONS

Houses	106
Re-inspections	249
Improvement Grants	24
Council Houses	155
Nuisances	27
Premises where food is prepared and sold	167
Factories and Workshops	14
Public Conveniences	49
Water Supplies	44
Refuse Collection and Disposal	54
Miscellaneous	15
Sewerage and Drainage	78
Sewage Works	66
Roads	161
Street Lighting	46
Cattle Market	67
Slaughterhouse	117
Shops, Offices and Railway Premises	151
Petroleum Licensing	8
Planning	42

OVERCROWDING

Very little overcrowding exists in Usk. This is due to the fact that persons living in apartments in overcrowded conditions have been given priority by the Council when council houses become vacant.

CARAVANS

A few caravans were stationed in the district during the year, but only for a very short period.

The only ground used for caravan purposes is the market car park which is used solely for the accommodation of caravans during the Annual Trinity Fair - water supply and sanitation are provided. Six caravans are permitted, under licence from the Council, to be stored on part of the grassed area at rear of the market.

HOUSING

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year

- | | | |
|------|---|-----|
| (i) | (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health & Housing Acts. | 106 |
| | (b) Number of inspections made for its purpose | 231 |
| (ii) | Number of dwellings found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation | 17 |

2. Remedy of defects during the year without Serving Formal Notices

Number of defective dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	17
---	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(i) Proceedings under the Housing Act 1957

- | | |
|--|---|
| (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | - |
| (b) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | - |
| (c) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | - |
| (d) No. of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice | - |

(ii) Proceedings under the Public Health Act

- | | |
|---|---|
| (a) No. of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | - |
| (b) No. of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice | |
| (i) By owners | - |
| (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners | - |

WATER SUPPLY

The Town is served by the Pontypool Water Company's Undertaking and with the exception of four houses, which are distant from the mains, all houses have piped water supply. Twenty-four samples have been submitted to the Public Health Laboratories and were found to be satisfactory in all cases.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The majority of houses in the district are connected to the Town sewers. The sewage disposal plant deals with all sewage and is operating successfully, though very regular attention is required at the pumping station in connection with pump maintenance, and also some difficulty is caused with the removal and disposal of sewage sludge. Weather conditions have a bearing on our difficulties in sludge drying and with the limited provision of sludge beds it is sometimes impossible to empty tanks at sufficiently frequent periods. It is now proposed to use a chemical drying agent which will reduce the drying period from six/eight weeks to six or seven days.

RODENT CONTROL

The sewers are treated twice a year and no heavy infestations have been reported.

The sewage disposal works and refuse tip are regularly treated to keep any infestation to a minimum. During the year 24 properties were inspected and treated for minor infestations.

FOOD HYGIENE

In general the premises are satisfactory and a good standard is maintained.

FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS 1960

No. of Premises - 37

Trade & No.	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 16	No. of Premises to which Reg. 19 applies	No. of Premises fitted to comply with Reg. 19
Licensed Premises 12	12	12	12
Cafes 3	3	3	3
Fruit and Veg. 3	3	3	3
General Grocers 9	9	9	9
Sweets & Tobacco 5	5	-	-
Butchers 4	4	4	4
Fish & Chips 1	1	1	1
Totals 37	37	32	32

SLAUGHTER HOUSES ACT 1957 - Slaughter of Animals

(Amendment Act)

There is only one slaughterhouse in the area.

Number of carcasses inspected and condemned

	Cattle	Sheep/Lambs	Pigs	Calves
Number killed	67	565	126	1
Number inspected	67	565	126	1
% Inspected	100	100	100	100

All Diseases (except Tuberculosis)

Whole carcass condemned Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned . 57

Tuberculosis Only

Whole carcass condemned Nil
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned . Nil
No. of visits for meat inspection 107

HOUSING - IMPROVEMENTS

During the year the Council approved two Standard Grant applications.

Every encouragement is given to owners of suitable properties to improve and modernise their houses. The raising of the general level of older housing accommodation is well worthwhile.

The 1964 Act which came into operation in August 1964 increased the maximum standard grant to £350.

BUILDING BYE-LAWS

40 plans were submitted during the year. These were made up as follows: new houses 14, improvements 15, garages 8 and other buildings 3. This compares with a figure of 43 for 1967, 44 for 1966 and 41 for 1965.

PETROLEUM LICENSING

There are four premises in the district where petroleum spirit is stored. Eight visits to these premises were made during the year. Installations are satisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL

A weekly collection is in operation and is carried out on behalf of the Council by the Pontypool Rural District Council.

All tipping is carried out at the tip on the outskirts of the town. The conditions of the tip have improved considerably due to the hiring of a bulldozer. A certain amount of soil was available for cover during the year under review and I am pleased to report that the position improved considerably during this year. Areas of the tip which had been covered were seeded and most of the enclosure can now be regularly mown with the Council's new tractor-drawn mower.

FACTORIES ACT

1. Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Public Health Inspector).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		Occupiers Prosecuted
		Inspections	Written Notices	
(1) Factories in which sections 1,2,3,4,6, are to be enforced by the Local Authority	4	7	-	-
(2) Factories not included in above in which sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	7	17	-	-
(3) Other premises in which sect. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	11	24	-	-

FACTORIES ACT

2. Cases in which defects were found.

NUMBER OF DEFECTS

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to by H.M.I.	Prosecutions
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	2	2	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
<u>Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)</u>				
a) Insufficient	-	-	-	-
b) Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork)	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	2	2	-	-

Outworkers Nil

I would like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council and my fellow Officers for the help and co-operation I have received during the year

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

G.V.R. LEE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Surveyor and Public Health Inspector

